

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 19, claims 11 to 18 and 20 to 22 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper and cited references.

II. Rejection of Claims 11 to 18 and 21 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 11 to 18 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,939,497 ("Nishida et al."). It is respectfully submitted that Nishida et al. do not anticipate these claims for at least the following reasons.

Claim 11 relates to a device for measuring pressure and recites a sensor housing including a first sensor housing part and a second housing part, the first sensor housing part having a pressure connecting piece and the second sensor housing part having an electric terminal, and a pressure sensor situated in the sensor housing, wherein the second sensor housing part is coupled to the first sensor housing part by a connecting part situated between the first sensor housing part and the second sensor housing part. As amended herein without prejudice, claim 11 further recites that **the second sensor housing part is made of plastic, and the connecting part includes a first section that is secured in position in the plastic of the second sensor housing part and a second section that protrudes from the second sensor housing part and configured for connection to the first sensor housing part.** Support for this amendment may be found, for example, at claim 19, which has been canceled herein without prejudice. No new matter has been added. This feature is particularly advantageous, as it reduces the expenditure and the costs of manufacturing the device for pressure measurement. In the device for pressure measurement according to the present application, the

connection part is connected first to the second sensor housing part. During assembly of the sensor housing, the connection part is then simply welded to the first sensor housing part in the area of the flange. Thus, only two simple production steps are required, although a connection part is used. In devices known from the prior art, a connection part is first welded to a first sensor housing part. After mounting a second sensor housing part onto the connection part, a connection to the first sensor housing part is established by flanging an edge of the connection part. Thus, these prior art devices require three steps, resulting in relatively costly production.

Nishida et al. relate to a pressure sensor and disclose, referring to Figure 1, a housing 1 and a cover 8. The Office Action admits at page 5 that "Nishida et al. do not teach the second [sensor] housing part being made of plastic." Moreover, Nishida et al. do not disclose or suggest the fixing of cylindrical cover 8, (relied on by the Office Action as a connection part) in the plastic of a second sensor-housing part. As such, Nishida et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, the feature of claim 11 that the second sensor housing part is made of plastic, and the connecting part includes a first section that is secured in position in the plastic of the second sensor housing part and a second section that protrudes from the second sensor housing part and configured for connection to the first sensor housing part.

As all of the features of claim 19 have been incorporated into claim 11, it is further noted that U.S. Patent No. 6,227,955 ("Pitzer") was relied upon -- in combination with Nishida et al. -- in the rejection of claims 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). As indicated below in response to the rejection of claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Pitzer -- alone or in combination with Nishida et al. -- does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 11.

As indicated above, Nishida et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features recited in claim 11. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Nishida et al. do not anticipate claim 11.

Claims 12 to 18 and 21 ultimately depend from claim 11 and therefore include all of the features recited in claim 11. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Nishida et al. do not anticipate these dependent claims for at least the same reasons set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 11.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of Claims 19 and 20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Nishida et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,227,955 ("Pitzer"). It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Nishida et al. and Pitzer does not render unpatentable these claims for at least the following reasons.

As an initial matter, claim 19 has been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the present rejection with regard to claim 19.

As amended herein without prejudice, claim 20 depends from claim 11 and therefore includes all of the features recited in claim 11. As indicated above, claim 11 has been amended herein without prejudice to recite that **the second sensor housing part is made of plastic, and the connecting part includes a first section that is secured in position in the plastic of the second sensor housing part and a second section that protrudes from the second sensor housing part and configured for connection to the first sensor housing part.** As set forth above, Nishida et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, this feature.

Pitzer relates to a pressure sensor assembly with direct backside sensing. In this regard, Pitzer shows only a sensor housing having a first sensor housing part 12 fitted with a pressure connection and having a second housing part 18 fitted with an electric connection. The first sensor housing part 12 is connected to the second sensor housing part 18 by a flange 36. Even if the second sensor housing part 18 were made of plastic, Pitzer still does not disclose that ***a section of the connection part is fixed in the plastic*** of the second sensor housing part. Because Pitzer does not disclose or suggest that a section of the connection part is fixed in the plastic of the second sensor-housing part, Pitzer does not disclose or suggest the feature of claim 1 that the second sensor housing part is made of plastic, and the connecting part includes a first section that is secured in position in the plastic of the second sensor housing part and a second section that protrudes from the second sensor housing part and configured for connection to the first sensor housing part.

As indicated above, the combination of Nishida et al. and Pitzer does not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features recited in claim 11. Claim 20 depends from claim 11 and therefore includes all of the features recited in claim 11. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Nishida et al. and Pitzer

does not render unpatentable claim 20. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claim 22 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Nishida et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,453,747 ("Weise et al."). It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Nishida et al. and Weise et al. does not render unpatentable claim 22 for at least the following reasons.

Claim 22 depends from claim 11 and therefore includes all of the features recited in claim 11. As more fully set forth above, Nishida et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features recited in claim 11. Weise et al. are not relied upon for disclosing the features of claim 11 not disclosed or suggested by Nishida et al. Indeed, Weise et al. do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 11 not disclosed or suggested by Nishida et al.

Moreover, it is noted that the shield 26 of Weise et al. is independent of connection part 30 and must be introduced as a separate component into the sensor housing. Claim 22, however, provides that the connection part itself forms the EMC protective space with the first sensor housing part.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Nishida et al. and Weise et al. does not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features of claim 22. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Nishida et al. and Weise et al. does not render unpatentable claim 22. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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